



LOCAL
Student
receives
scholarship
PAGE 3



HISTORY
Gottsche
featured
PAGE 4



SPORTS
Fall
season in
danger
PAGE 7

AGAWAM

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Hybrid school attendance passes, parents will get choice

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – Controversy has begun brewing in the Agawam Public Schools despite the fact that after making a major decision about school attendance this fall, the Agawam School Committee is facing criticism over allowing parents a choice.

In a 4-3 vote, the Agawam School Committee is giving the community the choice of a remote-only learning model, or a hybrid learning model where students would attend school in-person two days per week.

Mayor William Sapelli, who also serves as the chairman of the school committee by virtue of his elected office, said he voted in favor of the proposal because it actually allows parents a choice.

As of now, school has been delayed for the first two weeks

of the school. That is due to an agreement between the state government and the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

However, the town is still looking at starting school sometime in the second full week of September, Sapelli said.

According to the proposal, depending on the number of students who would participate in full remote learning would having daily “classes” online each day. It is unclear exactly what that will look like from the onset of the school year.

The other option will be for students to attend school two days per week. The proposal states half of the students would attend school for classes on Monday and Tuesday, while the other half would attend school Thursday and Friday. Wednesday would be remote learning for all. Remote

SCHOOL | page 2



It looks like there will activity at Agawam High School this fall after the school committee passed a hybrid learning model to start the school year. The vote passed 4-3. FILE PHOTO

Tons of damage left in storm’s wake



A utility pole on Line St. is broken following Storm Isaias last Tuesday. Thousands were without power following the storm. See page 12 for more photos. PHOTO BY KERRY L. KOEHLER.

Morse will not drop out of congressional race, UMass to investigate conduct

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The mayor of Holyoke is refusing to renounce his candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives this week after controversial accusations of misconduct while working as a professor at the University of Massachusetts surfaced late last week.

Alex Morse, who has served as mayor for the last eight years, is trying to unseat longtime U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts.

Morse, also a Democrat, is set to challenge Neal in the Democratic primary currently set for Sept. 1.

With just a few weeks left before that primary, the Daily Collegian, a publication at UMass, published a letter from the College Democrats of Massachusetts and its chapters at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Amherst College.



Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse

The letter alleges Morse engaged in sexual relationships with students at the school. It further states he abused his power as an adjunct faculty member and someone of heavily involved in politics to engage in sexual relationships for his gain.

After three days of allegations reaching

MORSE | page 2

Pre-register for hazardous waste collection day

AGAWAM – The Agawam Department of Public Works is planning to hold its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, Sept. 12 at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street between 9 a.m. to 12 noon. This event is free to Agawam residents, but pre-registration is required. Appointments may be scheduled by calling the

DPW at 821-0600 ext.0 or 821-0624 beginning Monday, Aug. 17.

Due to COVID-19, safety protocols and waste restrictions will be in place. Participants will be required to wear a mask, remain in their vehicle, and place all waste in the trunk, rear cargo area, or truck bed.

This program offers residents a safe, economical way to dis-

pose of household items that are flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic. Solvents, pesticides, caustic cleaners, and oil-based paints are some examples of the different types of items that will be accepted. For a more detailed list of acceptable materials visit the town website at www.agawam.ma.us.



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IN THIS ISSUE

Public Safety

..... 3

Opinion

..... 4

Sports

..... 7

Public Notices

..... 9

Classifieds

..... 10

Crossword

..... 11

12 PAGES

Time-lapse video of bridge work Stage 1 now available

AGAWAM – MassDOT is pleased to announce that a time-lapse video of work completed during Bridge Work Stage 1 from January 2019 through July 2020 is now available. Check it out now on the project website.

In the video, you will see the process of how crews successfully demolished and replaced the west side of the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge, including:

- Removal of the old superstructure (bridge railing, concrete deck, sidewalks, and structural steel);
- Demolition of old piers and construction of new piers;
- Placement of new structural steel girders;
- Pouring of new pavement on the concrete deck and sidewalks;
- Installation of a new railing adjacent to the pedestrian walkway;

Installation of permanent gas mains, and finally; and

Shifting of vehicular traffic to the now-complete west side of the bridge.

Bridge Work Stage 2 began on July 11, 2020, when traffic was shifted to the newly constructed west side of the bridge. During this phase, crews will demolish and replace the east side of the bridge.

Thank you for your patience as we carry out this critical infrastructure project.

For more information about the project, please visit the project website at: www.mass.gov/morgan-sullivan-bridge-replacement-project. Please send any questions or comments to the project team at: Morgan-SullivanBridge@dot.state.ma.us. For media inquiries, please contact MassDOT Communications Director Jacquelyn Goddard at Jacquelyn.Goddard@dot.state.ma.us.

SCHOOL ■ from page 1

learning would also take place the other two days per week a student is not attending school.

Last week's meeting was set to happen last Tuesday afternoon, but was postponed due to the power outages caused by Storm Isaias, making the remote meeting difficult to hold.

The meeting resumed on Friday morning, featuring Health Director Kathleen Auer, as well as school officials who recommended hybrid option to the school committee.

School Committee members Anthony Bonavita, Wendy Rua, and Kerri O'Connor voted against the hybrid option, wanting school to be fully remote.

Rua made a public statement (which can also be seen in a letter to the editor on page 4), elaborating her position.

She said the answers coming from the town and the health director about the risks of returning students to school were not good enough for her to vote in favor.

"But it is not my feelings, but rather the facts and the many unanswered questions that led me to vote for (the defeated) remote plan," said Rua. "If Agawam's commitment is to 'Put Students First' and if 'safety' is really our number one priority, then I think we were owed better answers from our administration to some questions before sending our children and our staff back to school."

Since the meeting, a return-to-school survey has posted on the Agawam schools website, www.agawamed.org. There is a link to a survey and they seek feedback from families by Friday, Aug. 14. Feedback from families will be taken into consideration as school officials work to make decisions about how school will operate in the coming weeks.

There is also a link to a document about the hybrid learning model.

MORSE ■ from page 1

the mainstream media due to his involvement in the Congressional race. He is set to debate Neal in the near future.

With no Republicans involved in the race, the Sept. 1 election will effectively decide the race barring some type of strong write-in campaign.

The First Congressional District in Massachusetts represents the overwhelming majority of Western Massachusetts cities and towns in all four counties, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire.

Neal, who has been representing Massachusetts since 1989, was once mayor of Springfield.

The two candidates have had various TV ads fueling their rivalry, but Neal's campaign denies having anything to do with the sexual misconduct allegations being made public with just three weeks to the election.

Morse, Sunday night, said he would not leave the race, and released a statement to that effect:

"I announced my candidacy for Congress because I believed our country needed leadership that understood the urgency of this moment. I believed that the voters of the First Congressional District deserved a member of Congress who would put their interests before those of wealthy and influential donors. I believed that the health of our democracy relied on envisioning a new kind of politics – a politics of lifting up and empowering ordinary people.

I still believe these things. If anything, my time as a candidate has only deepened my conviction that people are looking for a politics that is more generous, more open, and more just. I've heard stories from people in every corner of this district that I'll carry with me for the rest of my life.

Our campaign is fueled by the hard work and dedication of my amazing staff and volunteers and the contributions of small grassroots donors. Our campaign is also lifted up by the support of progressive organizations that helped take our efforts to new heights. I remain committed to their missions, but also understand the toll that recent events are taking on them and their supporters.


Over the weekend, the Daily Collegian published a story that alleged that I abused my power in having consensual sexual encounters with college students, and that I made other college students feel uncomfortable by conversing with them on social media.

I want to be very clear about this. I have never, in my entire life, had a non-consensual sexual encounter with anyone. I have never used my position of power as Mayor and UMass lecturer for romantic or sexual gain, or to take advantage of students. I have never violated UMass policy. Any claim to the contrary is false. As I've acknowledged, I have had consensual relationships with other men, including students enrolled at local universities that I've met using dating apps."

Morse said he welcomes any investigation and says he will be cleared of any wrongdoing.

On Monday, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst released a statement confirming an investigation in Morse's conduct. UMass has also gone on record saying Morse will not be re-hired as an adjunct professor. Morse taught classes in government and political science since 2014.

"The allegations that Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse engaged in inappropriate behavior with UMass Amherst students are serious and deeply concerning," UMass states. "And the university is launching an immediate review of the matter to determine whether the alleged actions during his time as a university lecturer were in violation of university policy or federal Title IX law."




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or join them Aug 12 & 20 for virtual registration events stcc.io/plan.

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stcc.edu/apply/stcc-to-your-plan

Virtual Women’s Leadership Luncheon series starts July 29

Staff Report

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College president Christina Royal and Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of Institutional Advancement, will kick off a reimagined monthly Women’s Leadership Luncheon Series on Wed., July 29.

The 2020 Women’s Leadership Luncheon Series, postponed from spring due to COVID-19, will now take place virtually over Zoom on the last Wednesdays of July, August, September and October from 12 to 1 p.m.

The series is sponsored by HCC and Training and Workforce Options, a collaboration between Holyoke and Springfield Technical community colleges.

“Women leaders and up-and-comers will be joined by panels of like-minded women each month for small group discussions and open dialogue,” said Tracye Whitfield, TWO’s director of Business Development. “Participants will have the opportunity to form a supportive network of women leaders, discuss topics of interest and enjoy a brown bag lunch, virtually. Professional development, networking and socialization over a delicious meal - does it get any better?”

Each lunch-time event will feature two

presenters leading discussions on different topics:

July 29: “Leading Through Change” -Christina Royal (president, Holyoke Community College) and Amanda Sbriscia (vice president of Institutional Advancement, Holyoke Community College; executive director, HCC Foundation).

Aug. 26: “Empowering Women in the Workplace” - Denise Jordan (executive director, Springfield Housing Authority) and Julie Quink (managing partner, Burkhart, Pizzanelli PC).

Sept. 30: “Comfortable in Your Own Skin, Finding Your Voice” - Tanisha Arena (executive director, Arise for Social Justice) and Pam Victor (owner, Happy Valley Comedy Theater).

Oct. 28: “Women Leaders in Non-Traditional Businesses” - Colleen Loveless (president and CEO, Revitalize Community Development Corporation) and Nicole Palange (vice president, V&F Auto).

The July 29 session is free. The remaining three sessions are \$20 each, or \$50 for the full series.

Registration is required. Space for each luncheon is limited to 25.

To register, please go to: hcc.edu/womens-leadership

Governor issues new travel order for residents, visitors

BOSTON – Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker issued a new order mandating all travelers from coronavirus hot spots entering the commonwealth to fill out a Massachusetts travel form and quarantine for 14 days. The order took effect Saturday, Aug. 1.

All travelers entering the commonwealth will be required to comply with a new travel order unless they are coming from a low risk COVID-19 state or are able to produce a negative test result no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival in Massachusetts. Other exemptions include people passing through the state, those commuting across state lines for work, people traveling to Massachusetts for medical treatment, people complying with military orders, or those traveling to work in federally designated critical infrastructure sec-

tors (essential services).

The travel order and other information is available at www.mass.gov/MATraveler.

Individuals who get a test must remain in quarantine until they receive their negative test results. Failure to comply may result in a \$500 fine per day.

Based on current public health data, those lower risk states include New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Hawaii. The list of lower risk states is subject to change based on public health data and states may be added or taken off the list at any time.

Prior to travel, people should visit www.mass.gov/MATraveler to fill out the “Massachusetts Travel Form” or text “MATraveler” to 888-777.

State reminds residents to wear masks to help stop spread of COVID-19

BOSTON - The Baker-Polito Administration today launched #MaskUpMA, an effort to continue to remind residents to wear masks and face-coverings in public to stop the spread of COVID-19. The effort will underscore the importance of wearing masks across multiple channels including video testimonials on social media, a new PSA, and a website, Mass.Gov/MaskUp.

Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito helped launch #MaskUpMA with video testimonials where they urge residents to wear masks to protect themselves and others. Red Sox mascot Wally the Green Monster also joined the effort today, and in the coming weeks, additional local public figures will remind everyone in Massachusetts to “mask up.”

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Breton receives Chicopee Savings scholarship

AGAWAM – Allison E. Breton, a 2020 graduate of Agawam High School, has been awarded a \$3,000 Certificate of Award from the Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, an affiliate with Westfield Bank. Breton is one of 11 highly deserving scholarship recipients from 12 local high schools that were invited to participate in the Foundation’s 14th annual scholarship program. Since inception, the Foundation has dispersed over 100 academic scholarships totaling in excess of \$300,000.

Breton was selected due to her exceptional academic achievements and her ability to balance her academics with a variety of school and community activities while maintaining part-time employment during her entire high school career. Breton’s impressive curriculum included a number of Honors and Advanced Placement courses. Despite the myriad of demands she placed upon herself through her rigorous course study, athletics and volunteerism, Breton ranked fourth in her class with a 4.41 GPA and achieved a combined SAT score of 1320, placing her in the 90th percentile. Breton plans to pursue a career in forensic science and will be continuing her education at the University of New Haven.

Breton was an active member in many of Agawam High School’s clubs and athletics. She was a member of the school’s Science Club, SAVE Club, Chemistry Olympiad, Prom Committee and the Agawam Chiefs, a group of students chosen by the school’s

faculty and administration to act as role models for their school peers. Breton was inducted into the National Honor Society, French National Honor Society and Social Studies National Honor Society. She served as captain of the Agawam High School JV soccer team and the track and field team. Due to her excellent communications skills, Breton received the school’s Soccer Leadership Award. Breton is an avid flutist and was a member of school bands for the past eight years. In the community, Breton volunteered as an assistant coach for the Agawam Youth Summer Track Program and taught children various soccer skills at a local youth soccer clinic. Among many of Breton’s volunteer activities, she could be seen cleaning debris and trash from the Connecticut riverbanks for the annual Connecticut River Cleanup Project.

The Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation was established and funded in 2006 through a gift of stock, then valued at \$5.5 million, upon the successful conversion of Legacy Chicopee Savings Bank to a publicly traded company. In 2016, the Foundation became affiliated with Westfield Bank and the Foundation’s stock holdings were converted to Western New England Bancorp, Inc. (WNEB), the holding company for Westfield Bank. Since inception, the Foundation has granted nearly \$5.0 million, through its grant application process, to hundreds of qualified 501c3 organizations within the Foundation’s regulated catchment area.



Allison Breton was the recipient of a \$3,000 scholarship from Chicopee Savings Bank. SUBMITTED PHOTO

ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 476 calls for service from Aug. 3 to Aug. 9 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Sunday, Aug. 9
Timothy J. Tomala, 32, of 46 Beekman

Dr., Agawam, was arrested at 2:31 a.m. on a warrant.

Tais Abreu Melendez, of 19, of 60 Gatewood Road, Springfield, was arrested at 4:24 a.m. for failure to stop for a police officer, and leaving the scene of a property damage incident.

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- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

No easy solution

The Agawam School Committee, along with school committees across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are in the least enviable situation when it comes to deciding the fate of how children will learn this fall.

And the 4-3 vote the school committee ended up with is the epitome of how divisive of an issue the decision of returning students to school can and will be over the next month.

To present and debate the merits of both approaches is futile. Everyone knows the options and the pros and cons of each.

The cons of a hybrid model, allowing students to come to school, is the risk involved with students mingling with one another, and then carrying the virus home and infecting adults, including elderly adults, who are at higher risk to have more serious health issues.

But what about the kids and their mental and physical health?

Kids have been at home since the pandemic began in mid-March. By the time school was set to begin in September, students will have been out of school for five and a half months.

And remote learning has been considered unsuccessful for many of these students, who have relied on people at home, like their parents, to provide their education. Parents, unfortunately, are on average, not qualified to educate their students, which is why children are sent to school.

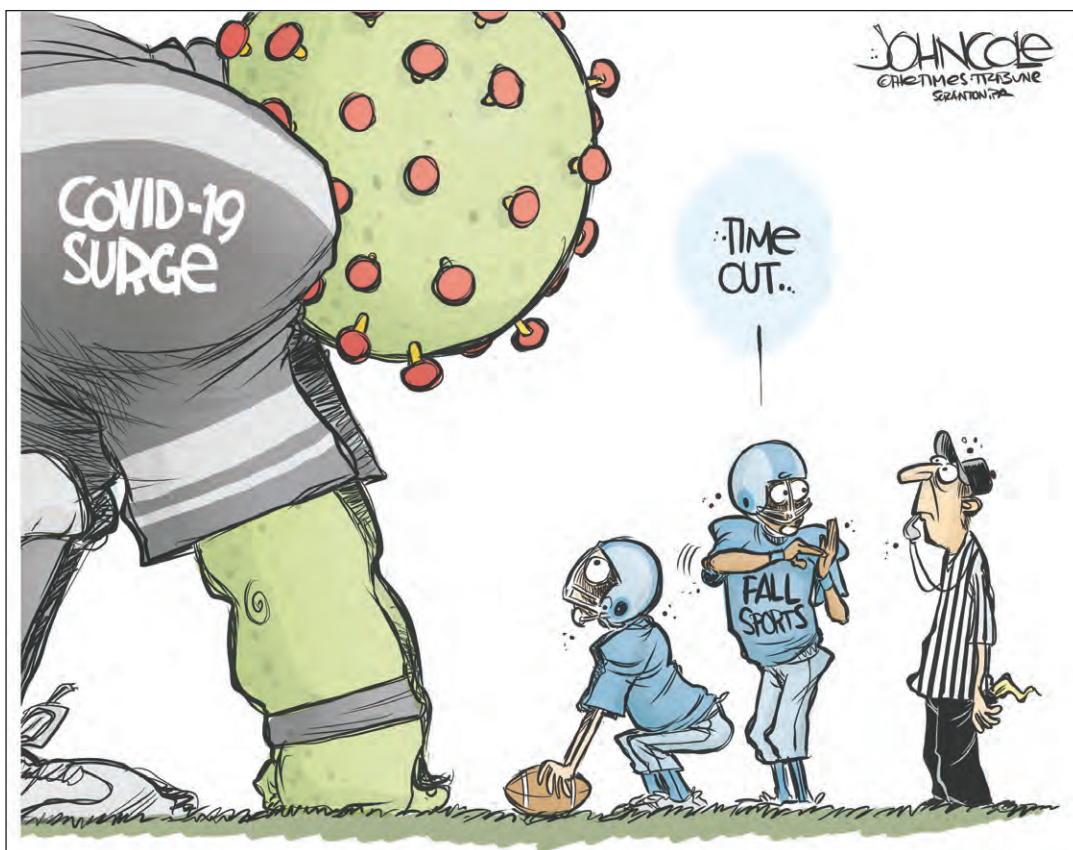
But about six months later, children are restless. They are not learning, they miss their friends, they miss their teachers, and they miss a semblance of a normal life. They are also falling behind in their learning with the extended absence from school, and by the time all students are back in normal classrooms, a lot of "catch-up" will be needed to get students up to speed.

Recognizing, the state legislature is even considering eliminating MCAS, the standardized test used in Massachusetts, for up to four years.

But despite all of these negative factors for kids, what is the price we put on physical health, and even life. Because children going to school could literally cost lives if students decide they can't handle wearing masks or they don't want to socially distance. The risks are there and do exist, despite the fact Agawam, overall, has done an excellent job keeping COVID cases at a very low number.

One thing is for sure, hating on the school committee members through social media is not a solution, especially here in Agawam where parents literally get the choice of remote-only or hybrid.

There is really no easy solution to whether or not to send kids back to school, and a vaccine that would help get life back to normal, can't come soon enough.



YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

Google Gordon Gottsche

It's sometimes amazing how high school classmates get scattered around the country. For many years we had two living in Williston, VT. They never knowingly crossed paths and didn't find out about each other until one of them moved to Florida. Maybe they passed each other in the grocery store a few times. We'll never know.

Our class of 1963 has two graduates in the San Francisco area. One is Joan (Magistri) Pierce who lives outside the city and the other is Marty McMahon who lives right in San Fran. Joan was five days old when I was born and after AHS we followed each other to UMass. In the 66-67 winter we did our practice teaching about 8 miles apart, Joan at Wahconah Regional H.S. in Dalton and yours truly at Crosby Jr. High in Pittsfield. I was a senior in college so it was pretty embarrassing when one of the Crosby teachers stopped me in the hall wanting to see my pass. Had I been the size of Dick Benoit it might not have happened.

Marty McMahon and I have been writing back and forth for a while. We knew each other at AHS but had different friends. Back in the 50's we both played baseball in the town's Little League. Marty for the Deloghia Jets and I for the Chriscola Bears.

If you have been a subscriber to this paper for a long time, maybe you remember how this column got started. It got its impulse from Al Fenney who asked me to see if former Agawam Advertiser News Editor Rick Sardella would publish Al's picture of the 1956 Deloghia Jets team. Rick put it in along with my first Yesterday's Hometown News column. That was 2009 and now it is 2020, hundreds of columns later.

Marty mailed me four Deloghia Jets pictures, 56-59 and he was in all four. We are having fun trying to get all the names of the players and coaches. It helps to phone others in the pictures and I had a vague memory of Andy Raguskus mentioning an assistant coach named Gordon Gottsche. My 1955 Manning's Springfield Suburban Directory had a Gottsche family living at 676 Main Street here in Agawam. How interesting. That's the house next door to Jim Reynolds, Jr., the founder of Agawam Little League. Also listed at 676 was a student named Gordon. So he must have been in college in '55. Time to check yearbooks. Not in the 54. Not

in the 53. Not in the 52. There he is in the 51. Suddenly another memory came to me. When Norm Frisbie got a broken neck wrestling, ending the sport, wasn't he wrestling with Gordon Gottsche? Time for a few phone calls to Gordon's classmates: Don Rheault, Bill Spring and Barbara (LaBranche) Foley. No luck. Time to call Ellen Janik. She found Gordon on Google. The bad news was that he had passed away in 2019.

Since I can barely turn on our computer, my wife found Gordon's obituary on Google for me. He has a brother Norman in Hamden but his other brother Robert predeceased him. Gordon left behind two sons and two daughters and the Gordon Gottsche Education Center in Cambridge which was named in his honor in 2014.

Jim Reynolds III '59 was about eight years younger than Gordon. His son Jim Reynolds IV played baseball at South Catholic High in Hartford. While

a student at UConn he began umpiring. He decided to make a career out of it, first working in the minor leagues until 1999 when he was brought up to Major League Baseball. He has umpired in All-Star games, Wild Card Games, Division Series Games, League Championship Series, and the 2014 and 2018 World Series. Remember the Red Sox won the 2018 so you probably saw Jim Reynolds IV on TV.

When I wrote to Marty recently I reminded him that Jim Reynolds Jr. was the speaker at our graduation. He didn't need reminding. Jim Reynolds Jr. was Marty's uncle and Marty was in Uncle Jim's kitchen when he read the rough draft of his speech. Marty told him it was perfect and didn't need any improvement.



Walt Willard
Guest Columnist



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Letters to the Editor

School committee member elaborates position

Dear Editor,

I want to address my rationale for not supporting the hybrid model that was voted on by a 4-3 margin during the School Committee meeting held on August 7. I am the parent of 3 school aged children, one who will be a rising senior. If I had cast my vote based on feelings, wants and wishes, I would've sent my children back to school. I, like many of you, have struggled with the balance of working and having school be remote. But it is not my feelings, but rather the facts and the many unanswered questions that led me to vote for (the defeated) remote plan.

If Agawam's commitment is to "Put Students First" and if "safety" is really our number one priority, then I think we were owed better answers from our administration to some questions before sending our children and our staff back to school.

Left unanswered for me:

Will COVID-19 numbers be reported out to families so they can make informed daily decisions?

What is the number of COVID-19 cases necessary before the school will inform a classroom teacher? a cohort? a school? those who ride the bus together?

Although not in the guidelines, is it purely a monetary decision to not test our staff for COVID-19 at regular intervals?

Who is teaching our children if families select the remote option? What will that curriculum look like, how will grades be affected and will electives still be offered?

Who is available for help, technical support or academic questions during students' home days in the hybrid model?

What does Agawam mean by "fragile population" (those who will be prioritized

for in-class instruction)?

What is our plan for teacher absences or teachers that fall in high risk categories as under Phase III in MA it states on Mass.gov "high risk should work from home if possible?"

What percent of time on learning is compromised if a family selects the remote vs hybrid plan? Remote seems to guarantee individual instruction consistently while hybrid has gaps and learning is interrupted on the home days of direct instruction. What happens to special education children? AP students? those who may not excel academically without daily interaction with the teacher?

One of the recent emails that I received had the words "Agawam Student Dies of Coronavirus" in my inbox. While that was just the header of an email meant to get my attention, it also implored of me to do my job! You elected us to do our job. And doing what is right is not easy. And doing what is right may not be popular (even in my own house, with my own children!). I do think the Governor & the Commissioner should have made this decision for us. But they did not. I knew that I would never make all sides happy with my vote, but after weighing the facts, I do not feel that we are ready to be in school at this point in time. I do not think we have had pertinent questions answered with the amount of detail that is deserved in order to protect lives. I will continue to work to ask the questions, push for answers and advocate to keep our children safe.

Respectfully,
Wendy Rua,
Agawam School Committee

Neal cares about important issues

Dear Editor:

As a high school student, there are two things often on my mind that may surprise you - the environment and gun violence. The threats of climate change and deadly weapons are very real - forcing students to live in fear for their present and future. A chip bag pops in the cafeteria and we move to hide under tables; we see the plastic in our oceans and know that we will suffer because of it. Our government seems to value material things over the lives of people, whether it be refusing common sense gun legislation to appease lobbying groups or ignoring climate change to get rich from the oil industry. But not Richard Neal. He takes direct action to preserve my future, with legislation like the GREEN Act sup-

porting renewable energy and trade deals with Canada and Mexico that are tougher on environmental policies. He met with local students who were angry after the shooting in Parkland, and prioritized passing legislation to make their lives safer such as the assault weapons ban and universal background checks. Richie has championed student issues locally and nationally for over 40 years, which cannot be said for his opponent. Even though I can't vote quite yet, I will support Richie now and in the future because he cares about the issues that affect me. If you are able to vote, think about the world that your children will have to live in, and I urge you to re-elect Richard Neal this year.

Alyssa Drumm

Boldyga supports Agawam

Dear Editor:

Please add my name to the list of endorsements for our State Representative Nicholas Boldyga. I have known Mr. Boldyga a long time, he has been a friend to Agawam, and continually supports issues im-

portant to our community. I ask all of my friends and associates to vote for our Representative Nick Boldyga on September 1, and let's return him to Boston to continue his work on behalf of his constituents.

Ron LaRiviere

Virtual walk to help NAMI

AGAWAM – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts will be holding its 20th Annual Walkathon Virtual Celebration, 'A Journey of Hope and Recovery on Aug. 23, starting at 11 a.m.

The event is suitable for all ages and abilities and will directly benefit NAMI Western Massachusetts continuing efforts to help improve the lives of those individuals living with mental health conditions and their families.

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals

and families affected by mental illness can Build Better Lives.

Folks may help NAMI-WM's mission by participating in this Virtual Walk or by sponsoring the event. Anyone who would like to submit a brief video saying how NAMI-WM has helped them or a loved one or how they maintain good mental health during these difficult times, these would be most appreciated. Videos should be two minutes or less, and the deadline is Aug.7. All entries should be emailed to information@namiwm.org.

For further information, contact NAMI's office at 413-786-9139 or visit www.namiwm.org/events for entry and sponsorship forms.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Mercadante to Set Record Straight

Recent ARTC Endorsement Gives Opponent False Credit for Funding

Claim: Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
FALSE: Funded through a collaboration with Eversource, the Town of Agawam and the Agawam Energy Stabilization Fund

Claim: Gear and equipment for the Agawam Fire Department
FALSE: Funded through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Grant written by the Agawam Fire Department

Claim: Funding for Town Generator
FALSE: Funded through an amendment fought for by our former State Senator, Don Humason in the FY20 budget

Claim: Safe Routes to School funding project
FALSE: Funded by a grant written by the Agawam Engineering Department and heavily lobbied for by our Mayor

These projects were successfully funded through collaborative efforts by the Baker Administration, the Sapelli Administration, the hard-work of our department heads and the generosity of our residents. Our friends at the ARTC have been misled. Please don't fall victim as well.

Independent/Unenrolled and Republican Voters, please vote Dino Mercadante in the September 1st Republican Primary. Early, in-person voting runs from August 22nd-August 28th.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Dino Mercadante



DINO
MERCADANTE
State Representative

Virtual 5K to benefit Soldier On scheduled

REGION – Due to the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Dynamics Soldier On Golf Tournament Committee has decided to postpone the 10th Annual Golf Tournament until the summer of 2021. This was a difficult decision, but necessary as we greatly value our loyal sponsors, players, volunteers, and community as a whole. It was a risk too great to take.

That said, General Dynamics Soldier On Golf Tournament Committee has shown an overwhelming recommitment to the cause of wanting to support Soldier On.

Starting on Monday, September 28 through Sunday, October 4, General Dynamics Mission Systems – Pittsfield, is hosting the Soldier On Virtual 5K! You are invited to register for the 5K Run/Walk/Jog, the September Cash Calendar, the Soldier On Jacket OR YETI Tumbler, or to bundle all three! To bundle make sure to click here.

Last year's golf tournament raised over \$59,000 for Soldier On, which was only possible with your participation and generosity! The funds raised will go toward ending veteran homelessness in the Berkshires and beyond. Soldier On significantly contributes to the improvement of the community and all proceeds from the event will directly benefit veterans who have served our country.

Additional 5K Registration details:

5K participants will have the option to register for one

of the categories below and will have the whole week to run/walk/jog the event on their own time.

Participants will be required to register and use the JustMove app to compete, as this tool will track your time, distance, and placement.

5K Categories include the following:

Men's/Women's Race: First place winners will be ranked based on best times as recorded by the JustMove app and will receive a prize.

Teams Race: Teams must consist of 4 participants. Times identified in the JustMove app will be combined after the final race day is complete and the First Place Team will receive a prize.

Just For Fun Race: This option is for those not looking to compete, but rather participate in the 5K for fun. A prize for this race type will be given out at random.

Please visit the SO5K Facebook Page and help us share this wonderful event for an even greater cause. We will be providing additional event information on our Facebook Page such as the Dine to Donate program, swag pictures, jacket sizes, fun routes in the Berkshires, and more. We hope you tag us in your race pictures!

Questions? Contact us. For registration, call Nick Bourdon (413) 464-3063.

State expands electric vehicle rebate program to commercial and nonprofit fleets

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration recently announced the expansion of the Commonwealth's electric vehicle rebate program, Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles to include commercial and nonprofit fleets. Building on the Administration's December 2019 announcement committing at least \$27 million per year in 2020 and 2021 to electric vehicle incentive programs, the expansion of the MOR-EV program will offer clean transportation solutions to Massachusetts businesses and nonprofits while helping the commonwealth achieve its clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

"The success of the MOR-EV program has helped reduce greenhouse emissions and improve air quality across the Commonwealth," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "The expansion of this program to include commercial fleets continues the Commonwealth's efforts to expand electric vehicle adoption and the electrification of the transportation sector, which is vital to achieving our target of net zero emissions by 2050."

"Our administration is committed to helping save residents and businesses money on their transportation costs while also making significant progress in our effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "Today's announcement expanding the MOR-EV program will help Massachusetts grow its clean energy economy and continue to lead the nation in clean energy innovation."

Beginning June 25, commercial and nonprofit fleets, which include company-owned vehicles, companies with vans, rental car companies, and companies that provide vehicles to employees instead of paying mileage, will be eligible to receive rebates through MOR-EV. Eligible vehicles must meet the same criteria as the current MOR-EV program which provides battery electric vehicles and fuel cell electric vehicles up to a \$50,000 final purchase price with a \$2,500 rebate. Additionally, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles with an all-electric range of 25 miles or greater and

with a final purchase price up to \$50,000 are eligible for a \$1,500 rebate. Rebates are not available to fleet purchases made prior to June 25, 2020. Public fleet purchases such as municipal and state are not eligible for rebates under this program.

"Accelerating reductions in carbon emissions from the transportation sector is crucial to meeting Governor Baker's ambitious net zero by 2050 goal," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "Expanding the MOR-EV program to include more vehicle classes will help us lower emissions across the state, improve air quality for all communities, and will ultimately move us closer to our shared clean energy future."

"More electrification in the transportation industry results in significant benefits to our economy and our environment and the MOR-EV program is a key policy to facilitate that transition," said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Patrick Woodcock. "Today's announcement of a MOR-EV expansion to commercial and non-profit fleets will ultimately lower emissions and create more pathways for businesses and non-profits to contribute to creating a cleaner and healthier energy future for our communities."

Since June 2014, the commonwealth has dedicated over \$31 million to incentivizing the purchase of over 15,000 electric vehicles and has reduced the state's greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 39,000 metric tons annually.

MOR-EV is administered on DOER's behalf by the Center for Sustainable Energy. The program is funded with Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auction proceeds and aims to help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and meet Massachusetts' goals under the Global Warming Solutions Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector.

For complete rebate program information and other details, visit <https://mor-ev.org/>.

Neal touts \$1.89 million to HCC for community health program

HOLYOKE – Congressman Richard Neal visited Holyoke Community College Friday, Aug. 7, to announce the awarding of four-year, \$1.89 million federal grant aimed at helping families impacted by opioid use.

The funds – \$399,676 in the first year – will enhance HCC's existing Community Health Worker training program with the goal of increasing the number of CHW's qualified to work on integrated opioid use disorder teams in area health centers in medically underserved communities.

The grant comes from the Health Resources and Service Administration, part of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

"We all know someone who suffers from this epidemic," Neal said during a press event outside the HCC Campus Center. "This disease touches all people from all walks of life. We must continue to work together to combat this critical public health and safety issue, and I am grateful for the good work HCC continues to do in this realm."

HRSA's Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program supports training programs that enhance and expand paraprofessionals knowledge, skills, and expertise. It aims to increase the number of peer support specialists and other behavioral health-related paraprofessionals who work on interprofessional teams to provide services to children whose parents are impacted by opioid use disorders and other substance use disorders, and their family members in guardianship roles.

HCC's partners in the grant project include Behavioral Health Network, Holyoke Health Center and the MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board.

"Funding to launch this new program could not come at a more critical time for our community and economy," said HCC president Christina Royal. "COVID-19 has made clear how essential community health workers are in addressing the wide range of physical, behavioral and mental health issues faced by members of our community. Through this program and with our partners, we will not only have the ability to support more families struggling with substance use, but we will also be creating more jobs in a sector central to our region's economic growth."

Community health is an emerging healthcare field and community health workers are typically employed by agencies to focus on underserved populations, conducting home visits and connecting clients with needed services. They do not provide medical care.

Five years ago, HCC became one of the first colleges in Massachusetts to offer a community health worker certificate program, which is part of the college's Foundations of Health program.

The funding from the grant will provide training for an additional 100 individuals (25 students and incumbent workers each academic year for four years) as CHWs in western Massachusetts.

Each participants will receive \$3,000 to help defray the cost of tuition, fees and supplies, and a \$5,000 stipend while they're in Level 1 training.

The grant will also allow for the creation of a registered apprenticeship program with HCC's partners that will be the first of its kind in western Massachusetts.

Students who enter an apprenticeship after they finish training are eligible for an annual stipend of \$7,500.

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SPORTS

FALL SPORTS

School opening decisions could affect sports return

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – With a number of school districts already declaring whether or not they will engage in regular in-person learning, remote-only learning, or hybrid situations where students would spend some time in school and some time out of school, the MIAA will need to consider the consequences of those decisions while determining when and how student-athletes will be able to hit the fields.

The MIAA Board of Directors recently voted to move the start of the season to at least Sept. 14. That would likely mean the soonest games could start would be

near the end of September. Football could take longer if it is allowed to be played.

Also to keep in mind for the MIAA is the recent decision by Gov. Charlie Baker to put any further phases or parts of phases of re-opening on hold due to small increases in new cases.

When Phase 3 of the re-opening plan took effect on July 6, it limited the ability for people to play soccer, basketball, football, and lacrosse. While practices could occur, games and other types of contests were not allowed at any level.

This cancelled the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, as well as the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League, and various other leagues that play in the

summer months. Only baseball and softball games have been played during the month.

With Baker putting further parts of Phase 3 on hold and rolling back crowd numbers on outdoor gatherings, it is possible that football and soccer games may not be allowed to play unless an exception is made at the high school level, or numbers of new coronavirus cases significantly improve soon.

But the decisions by schools also could make play of sports difficult. With some schools like Springfield, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow going all remote, it could be difficult for eligibility to appear in games to be determined. Other school districts, like Southwick, are giving

students and their families the choice of doing a hybrid model or remote only, which means some students will in school a limited number of days per week.

Agawam recently voted to have a hybrid learning model and bring students back to school as much as possible.

Other school districts will be making their decisions this week and next. All schools must be submitting plans to the state for multiple situations sometime in the next week.

School starts are also supposed to be delayed for two weeks for additional COVID-related testing for teachers.

Following the first few decisions being made, the MIAA did release this brief statement to

schools.

“As school Districts decide the format of their school re-opening plans,” the MIAA states. “The MIAA is fielding questions about the impact of those decisions on interscholastic athletics from school constituents, School Committees, Superintendents, school leaders and media outlets. Please be advised the Association has no current policy which negates any athletic participation relative to a District’s school re-opening plans. Members will be notified if there is any future modification to this guidance.”

The MIAA will likely be meeting again sometime this month, though a date has to be determined.

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball hall induction cancelled for 2020

HOLYOKE – The Board of Directors of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Hall of Fame Induction Celebration due to safety concerns for the international event that takes place at venues in Holyoke and throughout Western Massachusetts.

“Induction weekend is a celebration of our sport and its greatest legends, and while we are disappointed to cancel this incredibly special event, the Board of Directors’ overriding concern is the health and well-being of those who travel from all over the world to celebrate with us,” said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry.

This will be only the second time since the first induction was held in 1985 that the annual celebration will not be held. There will not be a designated induction Class of 2020. Instead, the IVHF will recognize its next class of inductees in the fall of 2021.

“We looked at every possible option to hold the event in 2020 including hosting a virtual Induction but it was clear that the right decision was to cancel,” stated Mulry. “Most importantly, we strive to honor the inductees in the proper way they are most deserving of. Our next Induction Class should enjoy the same wonderful experience in the Birthplace of Volleyball as previous classes and they will have that opportunity next Fall.”

There is still one major event on the IVHF calendar for 2020. The Nationwide Charity Ride & Run, a collection of virtual bike and running events along with in-person Motorcycle rides will take place across the U.S. September 12-13, 2020. For more information on the Nationwide Charity Ride & Run please visit VolleyHall.org/NationwideRide.

PLAYOFFS



Last year, PeoplesBank of the Tri-County Baseball League won its seventh straight playoff championship in the American Division. Tri-County cancelled its American Division season, while teams in the National Division played in their own league this summer. FILE PHOTOS



The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League was another casualty of the governor's ban on “at-risk” sports.



Spec Pond was not buzzing in the second week of August as the summer basketball league was cancelled when Gov. Baker barred basketball contests from being played.



The PVSSL also featured an adult league that was not able to play. All of the summer leagues hope to be back in action next summer.

Sports

Locals seek checkered flags this weekend

SEEKONK – When the Tri Track Open Modified Series rolls into Monadnock Speedway this Saturday, August 15, the race will be a battle between some of the Tri Track stars and Monadnock regulars. Monadnock runs a weekly Modified division as part of their NASCAR program, and multiple of the competitors will be jumping up to the Tri Track Series looking to defend their home-turf in the 100-lap feature.

Ben Byrne, who is a three-time winner in the NHSTRA Modified weekly division this year, has shown his strength multiple times in the past with Tri Track. Byrne was a frontrunner in the race last year, and on July 5, he charged to the front of the field, taking the lead on lap 33, and holding the top spot through a caution period on lap 64. Byrne would lose the lead but settle for a third-place finish after Les Hinckley and Craig Lutz got together racing for the lead in the final corner, with Lutz pushing to the win.

Byrne feels like he needs some redemption after showcasing the speed under the hood in the last few Tri Track races at Monadnock and not coming away with the checkered flag.

“We started running just for giggles to see how we would shape up against them,” Byrne, the driver of the No. 6, said. “We led a whole bunch of lap the first time but got tied up in a wreck, in the second one we led a bunch of it and we messed up the pit stop, and this last time we came back to finish third. We usually run the short races weekly... playing with the big boys is good experience for us.”

Brian Robie and Matt Kimball are also two Monadnock regulars who are no stranger to running with the Tri Track Open Modified Series. In July, Matt Kimball was fastest in the only practice session of the day, but struggled in his heat, and didn’t qualify through it. He would finish second in the consi race, advancing to the feature,

and would eventually finish sixth.

It was a long day for Kimball, but well worth the sixth-place result driving the No. 50. Robie would lead all 15 laps in his heat race, start the feature up towards the front, and finish 12th in one of the most competitive fields Tri Track has ever assembled. Robie also currently leads the track point standings by a large margin over Byrne.

For Byrne, winning with the Tri Track Series would be the top moment in his career.

“We put a lot of homework into the new car we built this year,” Byrne said. “It’s really been paying off. To be running toe to toe with the Tri Track guys with a crate motor and 200 horsepower down, it means a lot to us... I think we will probably have to burn the tires off it for a minute or two (if we win). It would be pretty close to a dream come true.”

Along with the Monadnock regulars, a stout field of Modified competitors is expected Saturday at Monadnock. Lutz and Hinckley could renew their battle for the win, while names like Chase Dowling, Ron Silk, Matt Swanson, Ronnie Williams, Woody Pitkat, Dave Sapienza and more are expected.

Teams will compete in heat racing, consi rounds, and the 100-lap feature as race three of the season takes the green flag.

Fans are encouraged to purchase their tickets ahead of race day on the Monadnock website, with New Hampshire limiting grandstand capacity to just 50% because of COVID-19. Masks are recommended and social distancing will be enforced.

For more information on Monadnock Speedway, visit them at monadnockspeedway.com. For more information on the Tri Track Open Modified Series, visit tritrack-modifieds.com and follow the series on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Baseball clinics to take place in August

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with the John Murphy Youth Baseball League will be conducting baseball clinics. To sign up for the clinic, please contact Coach Terry Murphy at tmurphy1hcc@comcast.net.

Clinics will follow all of the board of health requirements regarding masks, spacing and cleaning of equipment. Players with their own bats and helmets or catcher’s gear are encouraged to bring to the clinic.

Potential Baseball Clinics Schedule

All clinics to take place at Mackenzie Field

Free of charge for Holyoke residents, \$10 for non-residents

Wednesday, August 12	10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 7-10)
Wednesday, August 12	5 : 4 5 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)
Thursday, August 13	5 : 4 5 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)
Monday, August 17	10 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 7-10)
Wednesday, August 19	1 0 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 11-13)
Wednesday, August 19	5 : 4 5 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 14-17)
Thursday, August 20	5 : 4 5 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 7-10)
Wednesday, August 26	1 0 a.m. – 12 noon (age group 14-17)
Wednesday, August 26	5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. (age group 11-13)

Clinics will be run by former Holyoke Community College baseball coach Terry Murphy. He will be assisted by Bob Prattico, former Holyoke Catholic coach, Mike Afflitto, Smith Academy coach, and Mike Prattico, Amherst High School coach. Added to the coaching staff is Dioni Soriano Bello, a former player in Japan and Latin America. They will also be assisted by several former high school players as well. A trainer will also be on hand for each session!

Mass. residents in hunt for amateurs

NORTON – A trio of Massachusetts residents are on the West Coast this week for the 120th U.S. Amateur Championship at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Brandon, Oregon. The stroke-play portion of the event begins Monday, August 10 at both the Bandon Dunes and Bandon Trails courses.

Matt Parziale (Thorny Lea Golf Club), of Brockton, Michael Thorbjornsen (Wellesley County Club), of Wellesley, and Davis Chatfield, of Attleboro, will be among the 264 players in the exempt-only field. All three competed at the 2019 U.S. Amateur. Based on changes following the COVID-19 outbreak, all qualifying events for the U.S. Amateur were canceled, and the 264-player field (down from the normal 312) was set using a set of exemption categories, expanded use of the World Amateur Golf Rankings and finishes in recent United States Golf Association (USGA) Championships.

Matt Parziale is playing in the U.S. Amateur for the third straight year.

The stroke-play portion of the event begins Monday morning. Following the completion of 36 holes of stroke play Tuesday, the top 64 competitors will advance to match play on Wednesday. The Championship will conclude with a 36-hole match on Sunday to crown the U.S. Amateur champion, and the entire match play portion of the championship will be conducted on the Bandon Dunes layout, which will play at roughly 7,052 yards with a par of 72. Bandon Trails plays at roughly 6,823 yards with a par of 71.

“It’s something to look forward to, to compete for a national championship,” Parziale said. “I’m happy to be able to compete again, and I’m glad we’re able to figure out a way to be able to get this to work.”

MATT PARZIALE

Parziale, 33, qualified through playing at the 2019 U.S. Open and winning the 2017 U.S. Mid-Amateur. He has also played in the last two U.S. Amateur Championships. This year, Parziale made the semifinals of the Massachusetts Amateur, finished T9 at the Ouimet Memorial Tournament and won the Brockton City Open. The six-time Richard D. Haskell Mass Golf Player of the Year played at Bandon Dunes with Herbie Aikens (Old Sandwich GC) at the 2019 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball. However, he played on the Pacific Dunes and Old Macdonald courses.

MICHAEL THORNBJORSEN

Thornbjorsen, 18, who is heading to Stanford University in the fall, also qualified through playing and making the cut at the 2019 U.S. Open. This will be his sixth USGA championship for the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur champion. Last month he finished 38th overall at the Sunnehanna Amateur in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

DAVIS CHATFIELD

Chatfield, 21, who plays for the University of Notre Dame, made the Round of 32 at the U.S. Amateur back in 2018. This year, he finished 100th at The Western Amateur Championship.

Raised COVID-19 concerns cancel Thompson practice, race

THOMPSON, Conn. – Due to mounting concerns over the health and economic effects of COVID-19, Econn Motorsports announced today they are not moving forward with the traditional Bud 150 which had been scheduled for August 19th at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park. An open practice previously scheduled for August 5th has also been canceled. The recent outbreaks of COVID-19 cases associated with profes-

sional sporting events was chief among the reasons for the decision.

“We had initially thought that the virus would be of minimal concern by now, but the numbers are still very concerning”, said Terry Eames of Econn Motorsports. “We remain committed to keeping oval track racing alive at Thompson and will continue to work with the Hoenig family about the possibility of events later in the year.”

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Public Notices

Legal Ad AGAWAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Agawam Historical Commission will be holding a public hearing at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, via Zoom.** The purpose of the Public Hearing is to review the application for a Demolition Permit for the building at 430 – 432 South Westfield Street which comes under the Town of Agawam’s Demolition Delay Ordinance.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/993389526378?pwd=cEdMNHhNRUhhNmd-MVZnPS1NHbXhmdz09

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David Cecchi, Chairman
AGAWAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION
8/06, 8/13/2020

ADVERTISEMENT
The Agawam Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the **667-4 Elderly Housing Development** for the Agawam Housing Authority in Agawam Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Antonio Gomes Architect.

The Project consists of:
Roof Replacement at Two Buildings.

The work is estimated to cost: **\$69,700**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until **10:00 a.m., Thursday, August 27** and publicly opened, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at www.Projectdog.com and received no later than the date & time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For E-Bid Tutorial and Instructions, download the [Supplemental Instructions To Bidders for Electronic Bid Projects](#) from www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at

978.499.9014.
General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Agawam Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available online and for purchase at www.Projectdog.com, project code **839740**.

There is a plan deposit of **\$50.00** per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to Projectdog, Inc.

Deposits must be a certified or cashier’s check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within ten (10) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased online at www.Projectdog.com. CD-ROMs are available upon request.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$35.00 per set, payable to Projectdog, Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection at **10.am. on Wednesday, August 19.**

For an appointment call **David Siniscalchi at Worcester Housing Authority** (978) 394-9710.
8/13/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD20P1266EA
Estate of:
Mark Todd Percoski
Date of Death:
January 10, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **William Strumpfler** of Enfield CT, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

William Strumpfler of Enfield CT has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
8/13/2020

cedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
8/13/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P1006GD
In the matter of:
Sharon Pray
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Agawam Healthcare of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Sharon Pray** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Diane Estrada** of Springfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on

or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 08/26/2020.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 29, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
8/13/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P1029GD
In the matter of:
Nilvia Suarez
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR**

INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Agawam Healthcare of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Nilvia Suarez is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Diane Estrada** of Springfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **08/26/2020.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this

request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 29, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
8/13/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20C0118CA
In the matter of:
Dianne Carol Sutherland
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Dianne Carol Sutherland of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Dianne Z Sutherland
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/26/2020.****

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 29, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
8/13/2020

How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

Turley Publications Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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3

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visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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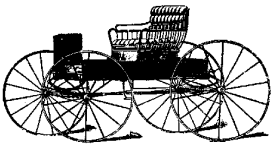
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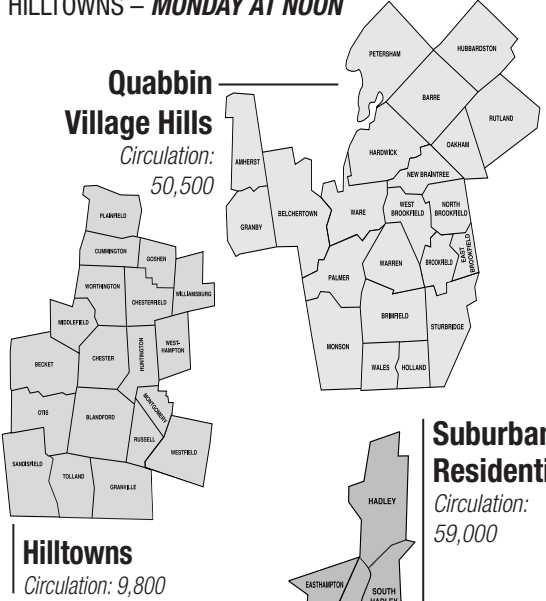
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Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

STCC launches new Social Media Strategy and Design Certificate

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will offer a new Social Media Strategy and Design Certificate this fall in the Department of Technical Arts and Design.

The coursework is designed to prepare students for the planning and implementation of a promotional strategy using a variety of social media platforms including social networking, microblogging, photo sharing and video sharing.

In addition, students will take courses in graphic design, motion graphics, marketing and advertising to blend social media strategy and design, a combination that is very much in demand, said Professor Philip Ruderman, a faculty member in the Graphic Communications & Photography program at STCC.

Ruderman called the program a vehicle to help students promote their talents, showcase their work and develop relationships that will grow their or their employer's business.

"With the explosion of social media within our society, the need for this training to blend effective campaigns with the latest technologies is long overdue," Ruderman said.

The new Social Media Tools course offered this fall will focus on the basic elements needed to create and maintain a successful social media campaign and will include social media marketing basics, social media mix, social marketing process, analysis, strategy development, program and communication design, and implementation.

This online course will put students on the path for self-promotion and promotion of businesses. The training enables them to build awareness within the marketplace

and to target and engage online viewers and build a community of followers.

An online search for social media jobs in the region will yield a number of results: digital content creators, digital content producers, social media designers and social media specialists. In addition, a number of marketing positions requiring social media skills can also be found.

"Many of our students majoring in graphic design or photography will need to promote themselves as independent, freelance photographers or graphic designers," Ruderman said. "This new program will provide the necessary knowledge for students to be able to promote themselves and display their work to business prospects."

Classes for the program begin this fall. Nine courses, or 27 credits, are required to complete the program, which could be completed in as few as two semesters. To learn more about the program, please visit: stcc.edu/explore/programs/smsd.coc/.

For questions, call Admissions at 413-755-3333.

Founded in 1967 and located on 35 acres of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, STCC is a major resource for the economic vitality of Western Massachusetts. As the only technical community college in Massachusetts, STCC offers a variety of career programs unequalled in the state. STCC's highly regarded transfer programs in business, advanced manufacturing, health-care, liberal arts, and STEM fields continue to provide the most affordable options for students pursuing a four-year degree. With an annual enrollment of about 7,000 day, evening, weekend, and online students, STCC is a vibrant campus rich in diversity.

For more information about STCC, visit www.stcc.edu.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Corrode
5. Jean Paul __, author
11. Hebrew unit of dry measure
12. A type of scientist
16. Greek goddess of discord
17. For Red Sox MVP
18. It checks your speed
19. Made dirty
24. The First State
25. Lodgings
26. Spiritual leader
27. Bradley Int'l Airport code
28. Native American people
29. Sharp pain
30. Touch
31. Slowly disappears
33. Indigenous Russian people
34. Narrative poem
38. Some are bad
39. Small quill feathers

40. Tattles
43. Popular Easter entree
44. Beneficiary
45. Clothed
49. Payroll firm
50. Lower Normandy's largest city
51. Binary compound of halogen
53. The Fighting Irish
54. Skilled, paid worker
56. Eyelashes
58. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
59. Large, stocky lizard
60. Made poisonous
63. Former US Secretary of State
64. Sticky substances
65. A type of gin

CLUES DOWN

1. To return an echo
2. Displace
3. Japanese religion
4. Predilections
5. Partial
6. Poisonous plant
7. Road open
8. Atomic #81
9. Accomplished American composer
10. Oh, God!
13. Potato state
14. Most melancholic
15. Supportive framework
20. Hollywood's Pacino
21. A title for women
22. Popular Grammys alternative
23. Check
27. Bolivian river
29. South Dakota
30. Wonderful
31. Supervises flying
32. Commercial
33. More (Spanish)
34. Even distribution of weight
35. "Arabian Nights" hero

36. Compact mass of a substance
37. Bachelor of Laws
38. Halfback
40. Some of it is ground
41. They play in the trenches
42. Atomic #18
44. Chinese Prefecture
45. Fabrics
46. Being in a direct line of descent from an ancestor
47. In slow tempo
48. Flood
50. Long-necked bird
51. Secondary school
52. Artificial intelligence
54. Structure by the water
55. Lather
57. What happens there stays there
61. A bone
62. The Great Lakes State

Baystate Health announces new visitor check-in

Staff Report

SPRINGFIELD – For the continued safety of patients, visitors and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, effective Monday, Aug. 3, all Baystate Health hospitals will be implementing a visitor check-in log as part of its visitation policy.

Visitors to Baystate Medical Center and Baystate Children’s Hospital in Springfield, Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield, and Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer, will be asked to provide their full name and phone number to be recorded in the log, as well as the name of the patient they are visiting. Visitors must also provide a photo ID.

In June, Baystate Health resumed hospital visiting hours which are daily from noon to 8 p.m.

Visitors coming to Baystate Medical Center should allow for extra time for our enhanced check-in process, especially during peak visiting hours from 12 to 1 p.m.

One visitor at a time is allowed in the hospital for non-COVID patients at Baystate Medical Center, Baystate Noble Hospital, Baystate Wing Hospital and Baystate Franklin Medical Center. Baystate Children’s Hospital allows one parent/guardian or one visitor of patients. No visitors are allowed in our emergency departments.

No visitors are allowed for COVID patients at all hospitals, except:

- Patients under the age of 18 are allowed one parent or guardian.
- OB patients who are in labor are allowed 1 birthing partner.
- Hospice patients and end-of-life patients are allowed 1 person and 1 clergy member per day.
- Patients with disabilities, including physical and cognitive, are allowed 1 companion.

Visitors must travel directly to and from the patient’s room when entering and leaving the hospital and will not be permitted in common areas such as waiting rooms, cafeterias or gift shops.

The visitation process for patients attending outpatient appointments or visiting outpatient practices remains the same, no visitors can accompany patients. Exceptions are as follows:

- One parent/guardian for a patient 18 years old or younger.
- One companion for patients with disabilities, including physical and cognitive.

Masks must be worn correctly at all times at all Baystate Health facilities. Visitors wearing masks with vents are not allowed and will be issued an approved mask from the hospital.

All visitation is at the discretion of Baystate Health.

For the latest information on visitor guidelines, visit baystatehealth.org/visitors.

More storm damage



A dug up tree chunk sits along the road on Bridge Street. Tons of trees and large branches came down during the storm. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



A leaning tree nearly takes out a utility pole. Wind gusts got up near 60 miles per hour during the peak of the storm.



A fire truck blocks off part of Suffield Street where road crews attempt to remove debris.

Massachusetts RMV expanding drop-off registration and title services

Pilot of new alternative service channel allows customers to drop-off paperwork for certain vehicle-based transactions to be completed within several business days

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) will on Monday, August 10th, expand drop-off registration and title services to 7 total Service Center locations, including Boston / Haymarket, Braintree, Chicopee, Haverhill, Milford, Taunton and Wilmington. These Registration Drop Off Centers are dedicated to performing a number of vehicle-based registration and title services for both commercial and individual customer transactions on a drop-off only basis. Customers choosing this option will be able to drop-off appropriate paperwork for processing within a few business days.

The RMV piloted this new service channel option at the Braintree Service Center the week of August 3rd, and during the first four days processed 402 drop-off registration transactions with an average turnaround time of two days. After observing results the initial week, the RMV advises customers to monitor and check their emails – including spam or junk folders – after they have dropped off their paperwork as some transactions may be completed earlier, and cannot be picked up until payment is completed online.

“The RMV is pleased with the overwhelming response and cooperation from the public to this pilot and is excited to expand and offer this new drop-off service for certain vehicle-based transactions to additional locations beginning next week,” said RMV Registrar Jamey Tesler. “Customers in need of one of these vehicle-based transactions can drop-off their paperwork and return to pick it up in just a few business days. This alternative service channel will

help meet increased RMV service demands during a time when services are limited by appointment-only due to the need to enforce social-distancing to keep our customers and employees safe.”

Registration renewals will still be conducted exclusively online or by mail for individual customers. Customers will continue to be able to make appointments for certain vehicle-based registration and title services up to 14 days in advance.

How Does ‘Drop-Off’ Registration and Title Service Work?

Customers in need of one of the services listed below should compile and complete all appropriate paperwork and any supporting documents. This includes contacting your insurance agent/company to obtain a completed Registration and Title Application (RTA). Customers must drop-off the required paperwork within 30 days of obtaining their RTA. Drop-offs with an incomplete or inaccurate RTA will not be processed.

Customers will be able to visit any Registration Drop Off Center between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to drop-off their transaction paperwork. An RMV door advocate will review the customer’s paperwork to determine if it’s correctly completed and ask customers to fill out a coversheet with their name, email and phone number. Customers will not be allowed to wait and should expect a phone call or email from the Service Center within a few days when their transaction is completed.

Transactions will be processed in the order received. Customers will receive a phone call or email when their transaction is completed and be instructed to pay for their transaction online. Customers are encouraged to check and monitor their emails – including spam or junk folders

-- after they have dropped off their paperwork, as some transactions may be completed earlier and cannot be picked up until payment is completed online.

Customers will need to complete their payment online prior to returning to the Service Center to pick up their plates and/or registration.

Customers who are dropping-off or picking-up their paperwork will be served in the order of arrival and should anticipate a wait time for the intake and pick-up process, but will not have to wait for their transaction to be completed that same day.

How Long is the ‘Drop-Off’ Turnaround Time?

While the RMV asks for its customers’ patience during the initial days of this service offering, anticipated turnaround time for completion of drop-off transactions is within four business days.

Customers are encouraged to monitor and check their emails – including spam or junk folders – after they have dropped off their paperwork as some transactions may be completed earlier, and cannot be picked up until payment is completed online.

However, customers may expect additional wait times if their transaction paperwork is incomplete, inaccurate or requires additional review. Drop-offs with an incomplete or inaccurate RTA (see above) will not be processed.

What If I Don’t Want to ‘Drop-Off’ My Transaction or Wait Up to 4 Business Days?

Customers may alternatively continue to book an appointment-only reservation for these services. Appointments are available online up to 14 days in advance.

What Type of Transactions Can I ‘Drop-Off’ for Service?

The following types of transactions can be dropped off by both commercial and in-

dividual customers, including casual sales, campers, trailers and motorcycles. Registration renewals will still be conducted exclusively online or by mail for individual customers.

- Register and title a vehicle
- Transfer plate to a new vehicle
- Reinstate a registration
- Apply for a registration only
- Transfer a plate between two vehicles
- Register previously titled vehicle
- Transfer vehicle to surviving spouse
- Registration amendments
- Plate cancellations

Where is My Nearest Registration ‘Drop-Off’ Center and When Can I Visit?

Drop-off hours will be between 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The following locations will all be performing drop-off registration and title services effective Monday, August 10th.

- Boston / Haymarket Service Center
- Braintree Service Center
- Chicopee Service Center
- Haverhill Service Center
- Milford Service Center
- Taunton Service Center
- Wilmington Service Center

Why is the RMV Offering Certain ‘Drop-Off’ Services?

The RMV is introducing this service channel alternative in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency to encourage ‘social-distancing’ in its Service Centers and prioritize other essential in-person needs by appointment-only. All RMV customers are encouraged to visit www.Mass.Gov/RMV to complete one of over 40 other transactions available online, by mail, or by phone.

For additional information on RMV service offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.mass.gov/rmv or <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information>.